



# Oak Branch MARCH 2024



Oak Hills Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Rachael Huntley

Beloved Family,

During the Ash Wednesday service, we listened to Matthew 6, where Jesus tells us that we are to faithfully practice prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Then we meditated on how to bring those practices into our Lenten journey. We asked God for guidance on how to pray, what we should be doing more of, and what we should be doing less of. Lent is a time of walking through the wilderness, all the while trying to discern God's path. The wilderness can be unnerving and disorienting, and so I offer you this blessing. I pray you will re-visit it as often as needed.

### Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter into the wilderness,  
do not begin without a blessing.

Do not leave without hearing who you are:  
Beloved, named by the One who has traveled this path before you.

Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,  
and if you find it is hard to let into your heart, do not despair.  
That is what the journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you from danger,  
from fear, from hunger or thirst,  
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.

But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.  
I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.

I can tell you that you will know  
the strange graces that come to our aid only on a road such as this,  
that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,  
that come alongside us  
for no other cause than to lean themselves toward our ear  
and with their curious insistence whisper our name:

*Beloved.  
Beloved.  
Beloved.*

-Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*

I pray that your Lenten journey is filled with revelation that leads to transformation.

With love,  
*Pastor Rachael*



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## Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.



*Bible passages are listed for your reflection each week.*

### March 12

### Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

On Mt. Sinai, God give the Ten Commandments to Moses.

Psalm 19

The law of the Lord is perfect; God’s commandments are clear.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message of the cross reveals God’s wisdom and strength.

John 2:13-22

Before Passover, Jesus chases the money changers out of the temple.



### March 10

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

God instructs Moses to use a bronze serpent to save the people.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, who forgives, heals, and delivers us.

Ephesians 2:1-10

By the gift of God’s grace, we are saved through faith.

John 3:14-21

Like Moses’ serpent, Jesus will be lifted up as a sign of salvation.



### March 17

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

God says: I will make a new covenant, writing my law in your heart.

Psalm 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.

Or Psalm 119:9-16

I seek you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I treasure your word.

Hebrews 5:5-10

Jesus Christ, our high priest, is the source of eternal salvation.

John 12:20-33

Jesus says: Now I will be glorified; I will die and be lifted up.



## Join us for Holy Week Services

*Palm Sunday worship: March 24*

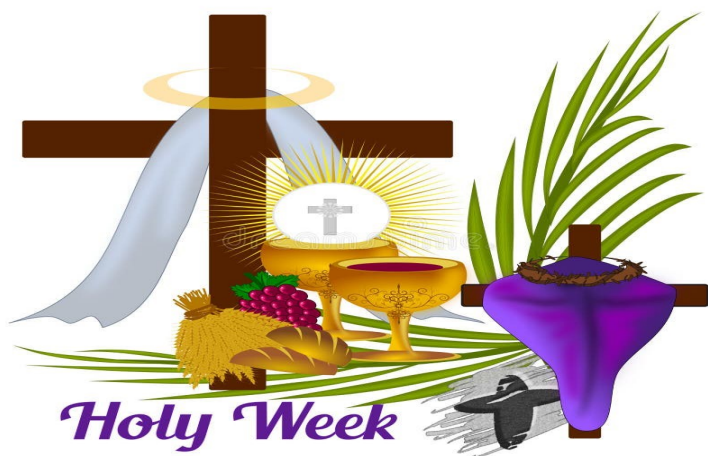
*Maundy Thursday Service: March 28 at 6 PM  
Pot-luck and Communion in the library*

*Good Friday Service: March 29 at noon in the sanctuary*

*Easter worship: March 31*



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



## March 24

## Palm/Passion Sunday

### Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!

Or John 12:12-16

Waving palm branches, a great crowd greets Jesus in Jerusalem.

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

### Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm 31:9-16

Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand.

Philippians 2:5-11

Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Mark 14:1—15:47

After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified.

Or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

[abbreviated reading] Jesus is tried and crucified.



## March 28

## Maundy Thursday (Service at 6 PM)

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 1-14

Before the Exodus, the Lord give instructions for the Passover.

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's Supper.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.



**MAUNDY**  
*Thursday*

## March 29

## Good Friday (Service at 12 noon)

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin.

Psalm 22

A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise.

Hebrews 10:16-25

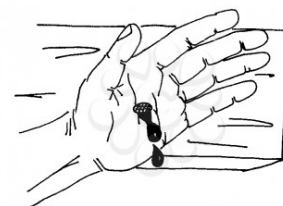
Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful.

Or Hebrews 4:14-16,; 5:7-9

In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness.

John 15:1—19:42

Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.



## March 31

## Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.

Or Isaiah 25:6-9

A feast on the day of the Lord; God will swallow up death forever.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

I will not die, I will live; this is the day that the Lord has made.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Remember the good news of Jesus Christ, by which we are saved.

Or Acts 10:34-43

Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.

John 20:1-18

At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.

Or Mark 16:1-8

Finding Jesus' tomb empty, the women flee in wonder and fear.





**We love good books!**

**The Frozen River, by Ariel Lawhon**

**Thursday, March 21 at 11 AM**

In 1789, Martha Ballard, local midwife and healer, is called in to determine the cause of death for a man found entombed in the frozen Kennebec River. When a local physician declares the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own. This historical mystery was inspired by the life and diary of the renowned New England midwife who left an unparalleled legacy.

**Upcoming books:**

April 18: *The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies*  
by Alison Goodman

May 16: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*  
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

**Join us in the sanctuary or on Zoom!**

## Easter Egg Hunt!

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**

**Saturday, March 30**

**10-11:30 AM**

There will be **games and prizes, snacks and crafts, as well as a bounce house!**

*And who knows—the Easter Bunny might even make an appearance!*



## ***Come to the Waters*** **BIBLE STUDY**

**March 6 and 20**

**5:30 PM in the library or by Zoom**

We consider what it means to be people of faith and how that faith defines us as we look at the disciples' stormy encounters that tested their own faith. Amos' calls for the waters of justice and righteousness to roll down on the Israelites encourages us to identify places in our own world that need such cleansing waters.



**All are welcome to participate!**

Contact Donna Amonett for study materials.  
damonett@gmail.com



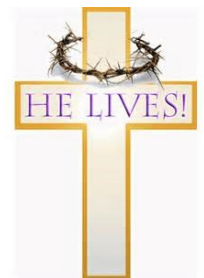
## ***OHPC Easter Breakfast Invitation***

Sunday, March 31, is Easter Sunday and, as is our tradition at OHPC, we will begin the morning with breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 until 10:00 a.m. Please come and join us.

We also have the tradition of members donating breakfast casseroles or other items for breakfast. If you can and will, please prepare and donate a dish.

If you are bringing a dish, please let us know (call, text, or email).

Plan to come early, bring your family and friends, and enjoy some fellowship time before worship.



OHPC Fellowship Committee:

Church's Office: 210-342-0271

Email: oakhills@oakhillspresbyterian.com

Robert Stull: 210-850-8575

## FINANCIAL NEWS

The annual audit will be conducted in March. Our records are audited each year by two members of the Interpretation & Stewardship Committee in accordance with the Book of Order to ensure that everything is accurate.

January was a reasonable month. The Stewardship Committee is actively trying to plan activities to supplement our budget.

To help our counters, please put your assigned envelope number on the offering envelope or on your check whenever you make a contribution. We appreciate all who contribute to OHPC.



**P. Jack Henson, Treasurer**

## SESSION NOTES

- † The congregational meeting to elect a nominating committee has been set for April 7.
- † Session approved the use of Fellowship Hall for a baby shower on the afternoon of March 30.
- † The building use guidelines and application form are being updated.
- † Barry Stevens and Dick Pettit have been appointed to audit the financial records.
- † The next Session meeting will be April 14.
- † Staff evaluations will be completed by April.

**Donna Amonett, Clerk of Session**



*Pastor Rachael will be on study leave March 4-10 and will be on vacation March 11-17.*



## Presbyterian Cluster Habitat Build

***There's still time to volunteer!***

Construction is underway for the 40th Habitat for Humanity home sponsored by the Presbyterian Cluster. Fortunately, only one Saturday workday has had to be canceled due to rain.

On March 2, a group from our church will carpool to Rancho Carlota in Von Ormy, leaving at 7 AM and returning about 3 PM. Our church is also supplying lunch on March 23 and, the last build date is April 13. If interested either in building, landscaping, or sandwich-making, please contact Connie Durocher at 210-364-9691 or [cdurocher51@gmail.com](mailto:cdurocher51@gmail.com).

## ISSA

### ***The Russians were here!***

Yes, ISSA hosted the Houston Russian Theater on Sunday evening, February 11 in Fellowship Hall. The musical-poetic performance included little stories about great love performed in Russian.





## Lenten Music

Savior, when in dust to thee, Low we bend the adoring knee;  
When, repentant to the skies, Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O by all thy pains and woe, Suffered once for man below,  
Bending from thy throne on high, Hear our solemn litany!

This hymn by 19<sup>th</sup> Century writer Robert Grant opened our Ash Wednesday service, marking the start of the Lenten Season. As many members have noticed, the music at Oak Hills Presbyterian Church shifts to more meditational and reserved melodies. Lyrics also shift to more sentimental and penitential words, marking this season as one of atonement and purification. In general, my organ anthems are lighter and less prominent, and the choir's selections follow a similar trek.

As we approach Holy Week, some of the lyrics of the classic hymns become more dramatic, even graphic at times. Grant's hymn reflects this shift starting in its third verse, which tracks our Lord's passion and death.

By thine hour of dire despair, By thine agony of prayer;  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, the torturing scorn;  
By the gloom that veiled the skies, O'er the dreadful sacrifice;  
Listen to our humble cry, Hear our solemn litany!

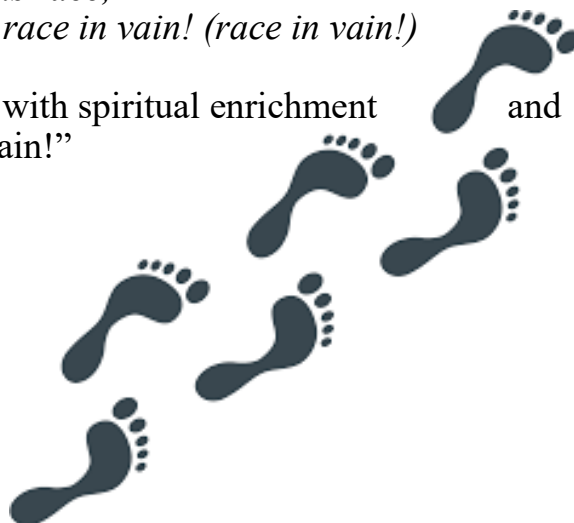


The congregation will note these many nuances for the next six weeks, until we reach the jubilant celebration of Easter Sunday on March 31. But, until then, not everything is gloom, doom, passion, and death. We will enjoy our lively Benediction, an African American Spiritual, *Guide My Feet*, which made its first appearance in a Presbyterian hymnal in our current *Glory to God* hymnal, in 2013.

*Guide my feet while I run this race (yes, my Lord!)*  
*Guide my feet while I run this race (yes, my Lord!)*  
*Guide my feet while I run this race,*  
*For I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)*

May your Lenten observance be marked with spiritual enrichment and personal growth, for none of us want to "run this race in vain!"

Gregory A. Nussel  
Organist and Music Director  
February 19, 2024



*This month, the Membership Committee is highlighting another faithful member, **Peggy Hudson**.*

Peggy joined OHPC around 9 years ago and has been very active in the church right from the beginning. She is a member of our choir. She has been an Elder several times and is currently on the Stewardship Committee as well as the Music and Worship Committee. Peggy recently volunteered to assist Jack Henson with managing the church finances. (Not an easy task!)

Peggy was born and raised in St. Louis, MO, as an only child. She went to college at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. Her undergraduate degree was in Education and History with a minor in English. She completed her master's degree in Guidance Counseling at this institution. She also has a doctoral degree in Biblical Studies from Lael College.

Peggy has had many different careers. After graduation, she taught English, Reading and Social Studies for seven years. She adopted her only son, Robert, and decided to stay at home for a while. When she returned to the working world, she had a variety of jobs, first as a Sales Rep for a secretarial temp agency. She taught business courses at a proprietary school. She was a secretary and then a computer technician for the American Red Cross. She also worked in a hospital education department teaching CPR class. Her last job before retirement was Director of Admissions and Records at Lewis and Clark Community College.

Peggy has lived in a number of cities throughout the U.S. including Bloomington, IN; Chicago; Omaha, NE; and Southern Illinois. She moved to San Antonio to be close to her son and her two grandchildren (Angel is now 10 and Joseph is 5.)

When she is not busy with her grandchildren or helping Jack, Peggy enjoys playing Bridge. She is taking French lessons and enjoys reading. She loves traveling and is planning a trip to Scotland in August.

Growing up, Peggy attended a Methodist Church. When she moved to San Antonio, she planned to visit several churches in the area. Her first visit was to OHPC. She said she was so impressed with how friendly everyone was, that she didn't look any further.

Oak Hills is so blessed to have such an enthusiastic, faithful member like Peggy!



*Happy Birthday!*

*and*

*Congratulations!*

*Our own Elinor James turned  
100 on February 14!*

# **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**



*What a wonderful way to celebrate the Super Bowl!*

*A special thank you for your generosity during our "Souper Bowl" campaign.*

As most of you noticed, the 6 foot long table and display in the Narthex the last few Sundays, was overflowing with non-perishable food items. The food has been transferred to "Cristi's Closet" that the pastor uses to store and provide food to those in need. In addition to stocking the pantry (and Pastor Rachael's study), you donated \$740 in cash! All food and money collected will be distributed to our neighbors that are in need.



The winner of this year's challenge to predict the winner of the Super Bowl LVIII football game is "Donna Amonett". Way to go Donna; you have made lots of us jealous!



# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 1-3 PM Girl Scouts
3 10:30 AM Worship  4-6 PM Guide Dogs	4	5	6 4 PM Choir 5:30 PM Bible study  7 PM AA	7	8	9 Time change! 
10 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session	11	12	13 4 PM Choir  7 PM AA	14	15	16 1-3 PM Girl Scouts
17 10:30 AM Worship St. Patrick's Day  4-6 PM Guide Dogs	18	19 Spring begins! 	20 4 PM Choir 5:30 PM Bible Study  7 PM AA	21 11 AM Book Club 	22	23
24 10:30 AM Worship  31 	25	26	27 4 PM Choir  7 PM AA	28 Maundy Thursday  6 PM service	29 12 noon service  <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	30 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 

Don't forget: *Spring Forward*  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME *March 9/10*

## Birthday blessings to:

- 3/1 Connie Durocher
- 3/3 Bob Goad
- 3/5 Nancy Wilson
- 3/8 Jeanne Dechert
- 3/9 Emily Ebert
- 3/17 Mac-Elroy Chi
- 3/23 Sylvie Bach
- 3/23 Jim Cresswell
- 3/27 Veronica Santos
- 3/28 Venessa Mabo Ngwambo



## Happy Anniversary!

3/26 Armando & Mayra Lopez

 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**



**Oak Hills Presbyterian Church**

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Return Service Requested

*Oak Branch March 2024*

